

Getting Ready for Canaan (Part # 1) Deuteronomy 7: 1-8

This passage is dealing with the preparation of Israel to enter the Promised Land. The Lord had brought them out of Egypt with a strong hand. He had a land that flowed with milk and honey reserved for His people and He wanted them to get ready to enter into His abundance.

It amazes me how the people were continually rebellious and refused to live according to the will of God. They could've enjoyed all the Lord had to offer, but many of them simply would not submit to the Lord in order to receive His abundance. Canaan was in view but the people were not ready to enter in. Their hearts were not right with the Lord. He would not allow them to possess the land of promise until they abandoned the hindrances of life. There would be many obstacles in the new land that they would never overcome unless they were right with the Lord.

There is a great parallel for many in our day. I believe there is much in this passage that applies to us personally. I believe in my heart that many have made the crossing. They have made it over Jordan and are standing on the banks of the land of promise. But we cannot stay on the banks of the river; we must go in and possess the abundance that God has for us.

I have no doubt that the Lord desires more for us than what we currently possess. The future is very bright for us, but there will be obstacles that will hinder our progression if we are not right with God. We need to prepare for the days ahead. This morning I want to examine the great [truths](#) found in this passage as we consider: [Getting Ready for Canaan](#). Hearts that are not right with God, those influenced by sin will be our greatest hindrance.

I. The Character of Sin (1) – [When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;](#) There are several nations mentioned in this verse. As I pondered them, I wondered what these nations represented in the lives of God's people then as well as today. It is clear that God wanted them totally removed from existence, [Vv.2; 16](#). Notice [Deut.20:13-17](#). If God wanted them removed from Israel, they need to be removed from our lives as well. Let's take a few moments to consider them individually. God spoke of:

A. The Hittites – Their name means "[one who is broken; one who fears.](#)" These were a people that were not completely driven out and continually presented opposition.

- If we are to become all that God intends for our Canaan, we must get rid of anything in our lives that would hinder. There can be no exception. If it is in the way of God's will, it must go! We cannot hold anything back or compromise in any way concerning God's will for us.
- There are those who live in fear of stepping out in faith. They speak of trusting the Lord but never find the courage to act upon their faith. Fear was one of Israel's greatest hindrances. They focused on the giants instead of God. I can't tell you where God is leading, but I have no doubt that He is well able to lead us where He wants us to go!

B. The Girgashites – Little is known about the Girgashites. Their name means “[those who arrive from pilgrimage](#).” So what is it that we need to learn from them? What is it that the Girgashites picture that God wants removed from our lives? We all have those secret things in our lives that hinder us. We all have those areas in which we are weak, where we continue to fail that no one else but God knows about.

- If we are to dwell in Canaan, we must be willing to rid our lives of those secret sins, those things that we think no one knows and up till now we have been reluctant to abandon. We must be willing to deal with the innermost part of our lives. Let us pray as David did. [Ps.139:23-24 - Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting](#). Are you willing to be honest with the Lord? Are you willing to forsake all that would hinder you? Are you willing to sacrifice the flesh for the power of God?

C. The Amorites – These were a people whose name means “[bitter; a rebel](#).” If there is one thing that hinders a lot of churches it is bitterness and rebellion. Far too many are unwilling to let go of the past. Many try to live with a grudge and still expect God to move. It is impossible to enjoy the blessings of God and be used of Him when bitterness abides in your heart. [Heb.12:14-15 – Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: ^{\[15\]} Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;](#)

- Often that bitterness leads to rebellion toward the will of God. You will never prosper if there is bitterness in your heart. I have no doubt that God is leading us into greater heights, but those who rebel against Him will not inherit the land of promise.
- Those who heard this message rebelled against God and perished in the wilderness. Will you be a part of the journey or are you determined to rebel and die spiritually wandering in the wilderness of bitterness and rebellion?

D. The Canaanites – This was likely the most well known nation that Israel would have to conquer. They were a people notorious for their immorality and false worship of Baal. Their name means “[merchant or peddler.](#)”

- We have seen an increase of counterfeits in our day. Let me say that everything associated with ministry today is not godly. There are those who are peddling “false goods.” They are merchandising the gospel for their own gain. [2 Tim.3:1, 5 – This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.](#) ^[5] [Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.](#)

- I am committed to the old time way. It worked for past generations and it worked for me! We must be adamant to stand for the true Gospel. We cannot cut any corners or lower our standards. May we be a people who are held to a higher standard and live holy and upright before the Lord!

E. The Perizzites – These were a people who dwelt in un-walled villages. They give the idea of those who had no concern to prevent the outside world from invading their land.

- We are called to live among the world, but we are also called to be a separate people. If we are to be what God desires of us, we must erect a wall of separation. Build some walls against temptation; separate your family from the lure of this sinful world!

- We must not allow the lust and filth of this world to invade our minds, our lives, or our churches. If we are to be successful, we must guard what the Lord has given us. The adversary will attack often enough. We must not make it easy for him.

F. The Hivites – These were a people who were unwilling to fight or protect what they had. They are similar to the Perizzites. They were known for being overconfident in themselves. They lived as if nothing could hinder their prosperity. They were a people of prideful arrogance. Their name means “[wickedness.](#)”

- I am not looking for trouble and I don’t enjoy conflict, but there are some things worth fighting for. We cannot make it in ourselves. If we are to endure, we must depend upon the Lord.

- I am not foolish enough to think that we can’t fail. If we aren’t careful we could be among those who used to have a testimony of influence. We could become a people who used to have the power of God on our lives but lost it due to self-confidence.

- If we are to maintain what we have been given, we must be willing to stand against the assaults that will come our way. Canaan will only be achieved if we are willing to stand united and endure the conflicts. If we are unwilling to stand, what will be left for our children to inherit?

G. The Jebusites – They lived on the border between Judah and Benjamin and neither tribe were able to remove them. Their name means “trodden under foot.” They picture those who have forsaken the holiness of God, those who have trodden upon that which we have received from Him.

- I have seen churches that once enjoyed the blessing of God. They grew and prospered in Him, but soon forgot that it was God who had blessed them. They got so big that they forgot the Lord. His presence was no longer viewed as essential.
- I never want to be guilty of overlooking the presence and power of our Lord. We need Him every day we live and every time we meet. It is dangerous to tread upon the holiness of our Lord. [Heb.10:29 – Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?](#) We need to be mindful of what the Lord has done for us. We are not here of ourselves. We would be nothing were it not for His gracious hand of blessing. God is the One who deserves all the glory for where we are. If we are to prosper it will be God alone who provides!

Conclusion: I am interested in receiving what the Lord has in store for us. Are you ready to advance for the glory of God? Are you willing to completely remove anything that would hinder you from receiving all that God has for you? I have no doubt there are those here today who need to deal with some areas in your life. Just like the Israelites, there are places that need to be destroyed and entirely removed if God is to bless and use your life.

Canaan is a picture of victorious living for the believer. It was promised to the people of God. You cannot inhabit a spiritual Canaan apart from a right relationship with Christ. Do you know Him as your Lord and Savior? If not, I urge you to come to Him while He is calling to you.